

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 03458 210910Z

11

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-10 H-03 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8496

INFO AMEMBASSY NASSAU

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LISBON 3458

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BF, PINS, PO

SUBJ: PRESS COVERAGE OF ELLIOTT ROOSEVELT AND

ALLEGED PLOT TO KILL BAHAMIAN PRIME

MINISTER

1. LISBON PAPERS HAVE GIVEN FAIRLY EXTENSIVE COVERAGE DURING PAST TWO DAYS TO ALLEGATIONS BY LOUIS MASTRIANA BEFORE A SENATE COMMITTEE THAT ELLIOTT ROOSEVELT, SON OF EX-PRESIDENT, OFFERED HIM 100 THOUSAND DOLLARS IN 1968 TO KILL BAHAMIAN PRIME MINISTER PINDLING. PRESS STORIES HAVE BEEN BASED ON WIRE SERVICE REPORTS AND INTERVIEWS WITH ROOSEVELT WHO SINCE MID-1972 HAS BEEN LIVING IN LISBON SUBURBS ENGAGED IN TOURISM AND REAL ESTATE PROMOTION AND CATTLE-AND HORSE-RAISING BUSINESS.

2. ROOSEVELT, IN CABLE TO JACKSON COMMITTEE AND IN LOCAL PRESS INTERVIEWS, CATEGORICALLY DENIED INVOLVEMENT IN ALLEGED PLOT. HE CHARACTERIZED MASTRIANA'S CHARGES AS "TOTALLY FALSE," AS THE "FANTASTIC INVENTION OF AN ABNORMAL MIND." SAID MASTRIANA EMBEZZLED 10 THOUSAND DOLLARS FROM HIM IN THE PAST, BUT MASTRIANA WAS NEVER PROSECUTED

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BECAUSE A NEW JERSEY COURT HAD PREVIOUSLY FOUND HIM

MENTALLY INCOMPETENT AND NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS
ACTION. REGARDING THE ALLEGATIONS AGAINST HIM,
ROOSEVELT TOLD THE LOCAL PRESS "I CAN ONLY BELIEVE
THAT ALL THIS IS A PLOT TO MUDDY MY NAME, A
MANEUVER ORGANIZED BY PERSONS WHO ARE MY ENEMIES.
WHETHER OR NOT THEY ARE MEMBERS OF MY FAMILY, I
DON'T KNOW."

3. ROOSEVELT CAME TO CONSULAR SECTION SEPTEMBER 20
TO HAVE NOTARIZED A POWER OF ATTORNEY AUTHORIZING A
MIAMI LAW FIRM TO REPRESENT HIM BEFORE JACKSON
COMMITTEE. HE MENTIONED THAT HE WOULD FLY NEXT
WEEK TO US AT COMMITTEE'S EXPENSE TO TESTIFY.
POST

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